

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12222 051046Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /128 W
-----025124 051052Z /10

P 051044Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8742
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12222

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EG
SUBJ: NEW AMOCO OIL DISCOVERY IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 8068 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL AMOCO'S PROBLEMS WITH ISRAELI NAVY IN ESTABLISHING DRILLING LOCATION IN GULF OF SUEZ (BLOCK 373) IN MID-MARCH (SEE REFS). AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THERE WAS NO FURTHER ISRAELI MOLESTATION OF RIG ONCE DRILLING COMMENCED. AMOCO HAS NOW INFORMED US THAT IT HAS SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY OF "HYDROCARBONS" IN THE WELL. QUANTITY IS SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT TEST OF WELL TO DETERMINE IF DISCOVERY MIGHT BE COMMERCIAL. AMOCO BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS REGARDING POTENTIAL OF DISCOVERY. THEY OBSERVE THAT ELECTRONIC LOGS OF THE WELL HAVE NOT YET BEEN STUDIED CAREFULLY AND THAT THEY OF COURSE CANNOT FINALLY DETERMINE ANYTHING WITHOUT DRILLING AT LEAST ONE CONFIRMING WELL. NEVERTHELESS THEY ADMIT FACT THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO STAGE PRODUCTION TEST OF THE WELL INDICATES THAT DISCOVERY IS "PROMISING".

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2. WHILE AMOCO PROFESSED NOT TO WANT ANY PUBLICITY OF DISCOVERY, CAIRO DAILY AL-GUMHURIYYA PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 5 THAT AMOCO HAD DISCOVERED OIL IN BLOCK 373 IN GULF OF SUEZ. ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS, OIL BEARING FORMATION OVER 900 FEET THICK. AMOCO REFUSED TO COMMENT ON STORY SAYING IT IS PREMATURE.

3. AMOCO'S CURRENT PLANS ARE TO TEST WELL EITHER SUN-
DAY MAY 7 OR MONDAY MAY 8. SMOKE AND FLAMES FROM TEST
BURNER WILL OF COURSE BE VISIBLE THROUGHOUT THAT AREA
OF THE GULF. GIVEN SENSITIVE POSITION OF THIS WELL, WE
ASKED AMOCO TO KEEP US CLOSELY INFORMED ON RESULTS OF
TEST AND FURTHER DRILLING PLANS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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